

BOOK REVIEWS

PRACTICAL OFFICE GYNECOLOGY. By Karl John Karnaky, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Gynecology, Baylor University College of Medicine. Charles C. Thomas Publishers. Price, \$7.50.

Karnaky calls this tome of 224 pages a "practical gynecology" and as judged by the ambitious table of contents at the head of each of the sixteen chapters it is meant to serve as a quick reference guide to the principles and practices of gynecologic therapy. Yet, Karnaky devotes nearly half of his monograph to the discussion of his impressions and experiences with stilbestrol as he has used this and kindred substances in the treatment of a variety of gynecologic disorders. No doubt much of this is valuable information offered with zealous finality by an unorthodox clinical experimenter, yet in the mind of the reviewer who has read this controversial tome three times there arises doubt that such finality of opinion is indicated at this stage of our knowledge of female endocrinology. If the book were called an account of personal experiences in gynecologic therapy there could be no question as to its intent and purpose but its present title presupposes a more inclusive discussion of the subject matter. The author is a great believer in the use of stilbestrol which evidently he uses to cure most diseases of the female generative system. He cites figures which though often not controlled are impressive, to say the least, and because by oversimplifying his subject his statements read convincingly. Karnaky discusses all the phases of stilbestrol therapy, their action and advantages but is little concerned with the disadvantages which, he says, will be overcome if the substance is used consistently. He advises the use of huge doses of stilbestrol or kindred substances for the control of so-called functional bleeding and he is of the opinion that none of these substances bears directly on pelvic cancer though he warns against their use in suspected breast and endometrial cancer. All of this and much more will make interesting reading for the discriminating practitioner.

The book also contains good information on vaginal cytology, the meaning and interpretation of vaginal pH, the various methods used in determining ovulation and their relative merits, newer aspect in the study of sterility and vaginal trichomoniasis. The chapters on genital tract infections, disorders of the cervix, dysmenorrhea, uterine displacement and tubo-ovarian disorders have been treated rather too briefly unless the particular therapy is concerned with the use of stilbestrol. The last chapter of the book is devoted to a brief discussion of the psychologic aspects of gynecology. It did not impress the reviewer as being adequate in its scope and presentation.

Karnaky's monograph is pleasingly presented and extensively illustrated. Colored plates have been used extravagantly, though many will be familiar to the reader of pharmaceutical advertisements.

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THE DOCTOR IN OREGON. By O. Larsell, Professor of Anatomy, University of Oregon Medical School. Published by Binford and Mort for the Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon. Price, \$10.00.

This is a most complete and well-documented history of medicine in Oregon from the time of the Indian shaman to the present decade.

Unlike many histories—so often a boring compilation of biographies—this is very enjoyable reading, made so by descriptions of disease and trauma encountered in the practice of medicine during periods of explorer, teacher, mis-

sionary and pioneer. Case histories and authentic anecdotes bring life to the mass of factual data presented.

Subsections are devoted to societies, journals and schools in Oregon, and to the development of hospitals and public health activities.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Larsell for this record of medical evolution in a state which can well be proud of its doctors' achievements.

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MANUAL OF CLINICAL THERAPEUTICS. By Windsor C. Cutting, M.D., Professor of Therapeutics, Stanford University of Medicine, San Francisco. Second Edition, Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. 1948.

The popular pocket-sized manual has just been revised in this second edition of 712 pages. The print is large and the subject matter made easy to read by the direct and simple style of the author.

The general problems of treatment are first discussed by Dr. Cutting. Then he discusses categorically the problems of treatment of the various diseases. These treatments are clearly and honestly outlined. Several therapy is considered, and if pertinent to the case, specific and preventive measures are added. Good and worthless procedures are indicated. Metric measurements are given preference throughout the text. Apothecaries' measures are included in dosage tables and prescriptions in the appendices.

The treatments are brought up to date with the newer antibiotic and chemotherapeutic agents.

Many pertinent charts, tables, prescriptions, drug doses, diets and medical procedures are well chosen.

This manual is highly recommended to all medical students and practitioners because of its authoritative character.

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THE YEARS AFTER FIFTY. By Wingate M. Johnson, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chief of Private Diagnostic Clinic, Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest College. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York-London. Price, \$2.00.

In *The Years After Fifty*, Dr. Johnson writes as an experienced doctor, discussing with his patients the assets and liabilities of maturity. In simple terminology he explains the physiological processes active in health and disease, presenting the problems realistically, yet in a manner to avoid undue alarm. Interspersed throughout are sympathetic expressions of the author's philosophy of living. Such a book as this one should prove valuable to recommend to patients desiring a simplified explanation of the medical problems occurring because of advancing age and serve to clarify misconceptions and allay the fears of those who are confused by the welter of pseudo medical information disseminated by word of mouth and by the lay press.

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A MANUAL OF OTOTOLOGY, RHINOLOGY AND LARYNGOLOGY. By Howard Charles Ballenger, M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor of Otolaryngology, Northwestern University School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois. Third Edition, enlarged and thoroughly revised. Published 1947. Octavo, 352 pages, with 135 illustrations and 3 color plates. Cloth, Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia. Price \$4.50.

This is not a first rate book but it may have some usefulness as a catalogue of ear, nose, and throat conditions. It is less expensive and takes up less room than most texts.

Despite "thorough revision" its general tone is that of the nineteen twenties. A gesture is made toward modern thinking by somewhat fuller mention of allergy, the sulfonamides, antibiotics and the newer procedures of the specialty such